

First Presbyterian Church



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Inspired by Scripture, guided by Spirit, and nourished by our life together, we seek to be a reflection of God's radical grace. We believe God's love models a world without walls; therefore, we provide a safe and affirming home where you are welcomed exactly as you are. No matter the color or your skin, who you love, your gender, or the unique ways your mind and body work, you have a place here. Following the way of Jesus and empowering one another to grow in faith, we commit to feeding the hungry, caring for those in need, and working for justice and peace in our community and the world—living out our confidence in the promises of God.

September 20, 2026
17th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Largo from "Serse"

George Frederic Handel

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CHORAL INTROIT

Christ be beside me

GTG #702, vs. 1

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Grace and peace to you from God, who calls all things into being and gathers us as the body of Christ.

Congregation: We come to encounter the living God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: God opens the heavens and provides daily bread to sustain us in every wilderness.

Congregation: Let us worship God together, whose radical generosity knows no bounds.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of boundless mercy and abundant provision, you feed us in every wilderness and call us to labor in your vineyard of grace. Open our eyes to your unexpected generosity, and align our hearts with the way of Christ, that we may rejoice in the blessings given to our neighbors and live lives worthy of the gospel. Amen.

***HYMN 716**

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and generous God, we confess that our ideas of fairness fall far short of your grace. We doubt your provision and complain when our comforts are shaken. We measure our worth against others, harboring envy when your mercy extends to those we deem undeserving. Forgive our narrow visions of justice, our stingy hearts, and our reluctance to live self-giving lives. By your Spirit, transform our resentment into thanksgiving, that we may celebrate your grace and gladly share in Christ's work for the healing of the world. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Christ on my right hand

GTG #702, vs. 2

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Hear the good news: God does not deal with us according to our merits, but according to abundant grace.

Congregation: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Leader: Know that you are pardoned, freed, and renewed by the mercy of God.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI**

(Hymnal pg. 581)

***Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end!
Amen, amen.***

***THE PEACE**

Leader: The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

**At this time young children may depart for the nursery.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

ANTHEM

There's a Wideness In God's Mercy

Don Michael Dicie

*There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His justice,
Which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner,
And more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Savior;
There is healing in His blood.*

*There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in Heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment given.
There is plentiful redemption
In the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members
In the sorrows of the Lord.*

*For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of our mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more simple,
We should take Him at His word;
And our lives would be all sunshine
In the sweetness of our Lord.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:

Philippians 1:21-27

NT 196

GOSPEL LESSON:

Matthew 20:1-16

NT 21

SERMON

The Christian Life

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Confession of 1967, 9.32

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to people commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering

makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong.

***HYMN 444**

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Hymnal pg. 35)

INVITATION TO OFFERING



You may present your offering at the front of the sanctuary, or if you prefer to contribute electronically, you can do so using the PayPal QR code in your bulletin or visit our website at fpcmilledgeville.org.



OFFERTORY

Pavane

Maurice Ravel, arr. Alan Ridout

***DOXOLOGY**

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Generous God, we return to you a portion of what you have first given us. Dedicate these gifts and our whole lives to your service, that through our sharing, the hungry may be fed, the isolated embraced, and the good news of Jesus Christ made known throughout the world.
Amen.

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 697**

Take My Life

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION** *Christ be in all hearts*

GTG #702, vs. 3

***POSTLUDE**

Siciliana from "Concerto No. 5"

G. F. Handel

****At these times the congregation is invited to rise in body or in spirit.***

*All music used by permission. All liturgy is written by the Rev. Marianne B. Turner.
CCLI License # 2910879 and streaming license # 23024105.*

Greeters

Sept. 20: Millie Murphy & Nancy Miller

Sept. 27: John & Emily Bradley

Nursery Volunteers

Sept. 20: Charles Burrell/Nancy Miller

Sept. 27: Joel Burns/Melba Burrell

**Liturgists**

Sept. 20: Frida Ituka

Sept. 27: Ruby Werts

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sandwich squad (30 minute service project) is next week after church! There is a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall for those who wish to contribute items like lunch meat, pb&j, and bread.
- There is also a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for those who wish to bring refreshments for fellowship & coffee on Sunday mornings.
- In a continuation of our Bicentennial celebration, we will recognize past church members and staff who are buried locally for All Saints Day, November 1st. If you have a relative or loved one you wish to be honored, please send the names and local cemetery information to the church office no later than October 20. Details of the recognition ceremony will be shared in October.

THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: September 20-27

Today	9:45	Sunday School
	10:40	Fellowship
	11:00	Worship
	12:00	Youth group
Monday	7:00	PATH/Oconee Recovery Coalition
	7:00	Milledgeville Singers Guild
Tuesday	9:30	Food Pantry
	12:00	Kiwanis
	7:30	NA Meeting
Wednesday	10:00	Mug with Mari
	6:30	Potluck & Study
Thursday	5:30	In Our Best Interest
	7:30	NA Meeting
Saturday	7:30	NA Meeting
Sunday	9:45	Sunday School
	10:40	Fellowship
	11:00	Worship
	12:00	Youth group + Sandwich Squad

Prayer List

CHURCH FAMILY:

Harry Beck, recovering from surgery
Debbie Lamsma, dealing with Parkinson's
Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ongoing health concerns
Louise Sallstrom, ongoing health concerns
Ellen Thompson, waiting on two hip replacements

EXTENDED FAMILY:

Bob Bray, Ann Hotchkiss' friend with a heart blockage, and his care team at Emory
Jax Bastow, dealing with child cancer round 2, and parents Catherine & Jason
Bastow, family friends of Pat & Sherry Henry
Don Lucik, Mary Lucik's son, in the hospital
Oscar Jude Hall, Gini Wilkerson's nephew, born prematurely
Ron Bracewell, Joy Bracewell's father, ongoing with health issues
Darryl Allen, Andrew Allen's father, ongoing health concerns
Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Foster with serious health issues
Kathie Bishop, Mari Turner's mother, in memory care
Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, ongoing health concerns
Charles Morgan, Jennifer Flory's father, ongoing health concerns
Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, health issues—at Carlyle House in Macon
John J. Murphy, Kathy Carroll's father, recovering from kidney operation
Renee Pearson, Sunda Coleman's daughter-in-law, at home with health concerns
Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards' son-in-law, ongoing health concerns
Ike Thomas, ongoing cancer treatments
Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers' husband, at home in hospice care
Wayne Woodward, Ruby Werts' brother, diagnosed with Parkinson's

IN ASSISTED LIVING:

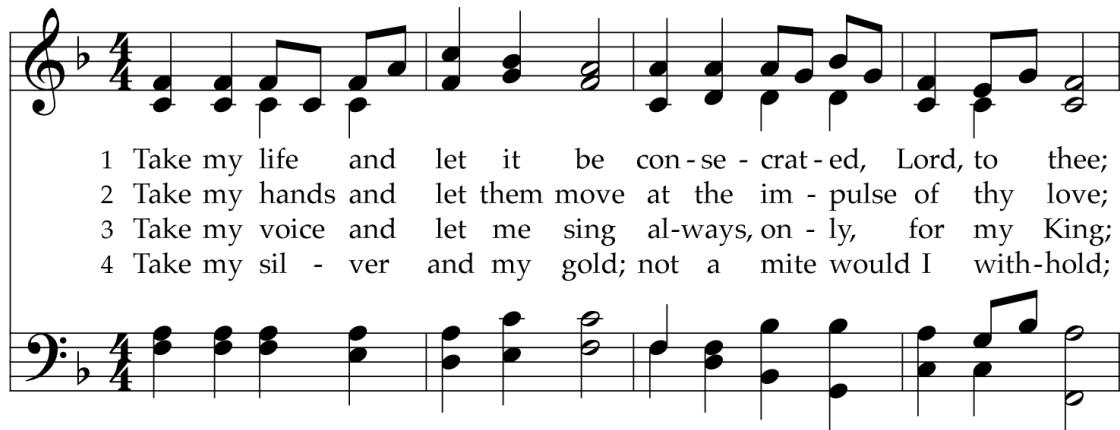
Jude Hirsch, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Laura King, The Cottages of Milledgeville, 1010 Fernwood Drive
Maryanne Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Runette Pounds, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Louise Sallstrom, The Cottages of Milledgeville, 1010 Fernwood Drive
Suzy Smith, The Oaks Peake, 400 Foster Rd., A2, Macon, GA 31210



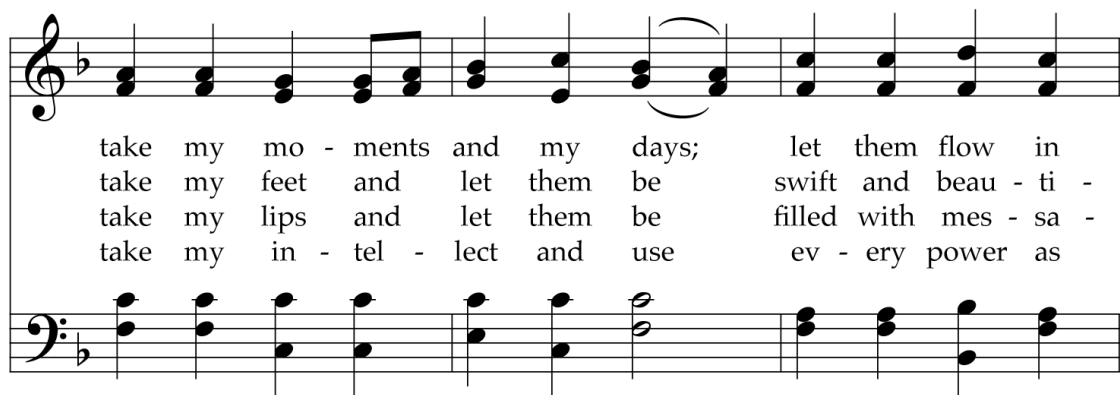
Offerings in September \$ 9,282
Anticipated September expenses: \$ 18,242
(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)

Take My Life

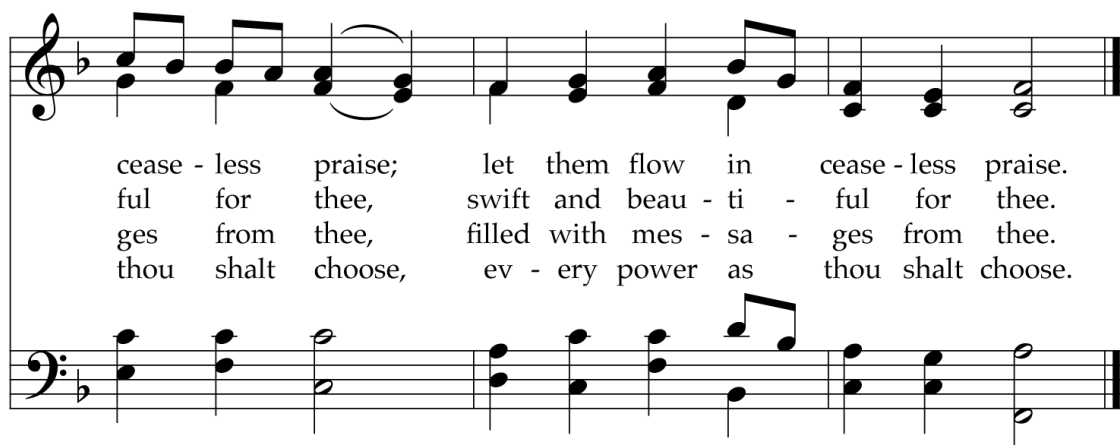
697



1 Take my life and let it be con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al-ways, on - ly, for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would I with-hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti -
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa -
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - ery power as



cease - less praise; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 ful for thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 ges from thee, filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.
 thou shalt choose, ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
 it shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne,
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee,
 ever, only, all for thee.

This hymn of consecration radiates from the repeated word "take," resulting in a remarkably full survey of a person's attributes and possessions and giving weight to the "all" at the end. The composer of the tune was influential in the renewal of Reformed hymnody in French.

WORSHIP with us

Join us for worship in-person or online
on Facebook Live every week.

9:45 AM Engage Sunday School Class (meets in upstairs classroom), studying PC(USA) Engage Discipleship curriculum.

9:45 AM Bible Sunday School Class (meets in the Betty Newton Campbell parlor), doing an intensive study of the Book of Jeremiah. Please contact Joel Burns joeldburns@gmail.com if you are interested in attending via Zoom.

9:45 AM Fellowship Sunday School Class (meets in the library) studying *God In Pain* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

9:45 AM Children's Sunday School Class, (meets in the Craft Room upstairs) singing, crafts and stories, & **Youth Sunday School Class** (meets in youth room upstairs)

12:00PM Youth Group (Youth Room)

Wednesday: 6:30PM Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study, (meeting in the Fellowship Hall). Potluck at 6:30 and study at 7:00.



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

Pastor, Rev. Mari Turner (in office every Wednesday)

revmariturner@gmail.com

Children & Youth, vacant

Administrative Assistant, Jessica McQuain

Music Director, Dr. Jennifer Flory, jennifer.flory@gcsu.edu

Organist, Kate Phillips

Treasurer, Joel Burns

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Church Staff

OFFICE HOURS

9am ~ 1pm Mon-Thur.

